

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

#E0-57
RS

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

February 3, 2004

Mr. David Barton, Esq.
The Gardner Law Firm
745 East Mulberry Avenue, Suite 100
San Antonio, TX 78212-3167

Re: STB Finance Docket 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company –
Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX

Dear Mr. Barton:

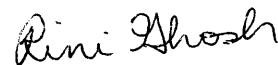
Thank you for your letter dated January 15, 2004 regarding the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) environmental review of Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's proposed rail line construction and operation in Medina County, Texas. We have placed your letter in the environmental correspondence docket for this proceeding.

In your letter you request that the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed rail line construction and operation.

Enclosed please find a copy of SEA's Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS and attached draft scope of study, served by the Board and published in the *Federal Register* on January 28, 2004. We are requesting written comments on the draft scope of study by February 26, 2004.

We appreciate your interest in the environmental review process for this proceeding. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 565-1539.

Sincerely,



Rini Ghosh
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure